Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry yesterday joined Congress in its unanimous support of National Military Appreciation Month. Fortenberry was a co-sponsor of this legislation, and today released the following statement:

"America is deeply appreciative of the hard work and sacrifice of our military members, who safeguard our liberty each day. As the United States Congress honors all members of our Armed Forces this month, let us never forget the unwavering service and self-sacrifice of the men and women of our nation' Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve forces that stand on the front lines before those who seek to do us harm. This volunteer force defending our great nation today exemplifies the greatest civic traditions of the American people.

"As a citizen who enjoys the rights afforded to me through our Constitution, I am continually humbled by the remarkable men and women who choose to stand in harm' way on behalf of their fellow Americans. Let us never forget that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance; our military men and women honor each of us with their professional stewardship in the defense of our country.

"I am also deeply appreciative of the shared sacrifice and hardships borne by our military families in the absence of their love ones serving far from home. Many of life' special moments pass by without a husband, wife, father, mother, son, or daughter; the birth of child, a child' first steps, birthdays, anniversaries and graduations. These are moments many of us take for granted, as we live in peace because of the sacrifice of others.

"I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of National Military Appreciation Month. Let us not forget these heroes and let us never fail to appreciate the blessing of liberty."

###